

**Discussion Questions For
“Claiming the Vision:
Baptismal Identity in the Episcopal Church”**

Video 5: Advice for Those Designing Liturgies In the 21st Century

Innovation for Our Own Day

1. In what ways might your community become more conscious of and supportive of the needs of the very old, the young, those of other ethnicities or races, and the differently abled in your worship life together? How could your worship life more readily express a care and a welcome for all?
2. Discuss a time when you have understood what the biblical narrative was talking about because it was embodied in your community's actions?
3. Is your worshipping community brave enough to fail?

Important Principles In Liturgical Design

Balancing the Vertical and Horizontal Elements

1. What does Dr. Weil mean when he says that the private and personal aspects of our worship experience are derivative of the corporate aspects?
2. How do our own attitudes and actions in worship change when we understand worship to be primarily a corporate act in which we are together blessed by God?

Attending to Structure and to the Oral Nature of Worship

1. What do you consider to be the primary structural elements of our Eucharist? Compare your list to the list on page 399 in the Book of Common Prayer. Are the elements that are central to you the same as the historical structural elements?
2. What words in our liturgy do you love to hear spoken?
3. Is liturgy poetry or prose?

Bringing Expansive Language to Liturgy

1. What are some less frequently expressed images of God that carry deep meaning in your own interior life?
2. How does the use of expansive language change our understanding of God?
3. What traditional oft repeated image of God do you find unhelpful in your own personal spirituality? In your community's corporate spirituality?

Honoring the Needs of the Community

1. Describe a worship service you wished could have gone on forever.
2. What must be present (or absent) for a liturgy to be energizing for the congregation participating in it?
3. What makes a liturgy boring, frustrating, or exhausting?

Creating Worship That Is Culturally Sensitive

1. How does your community communicate that it is respectful and sensitive to cultural diversity?
2. Even if your community is quite homogeneous, is there a need to hold a commitment to cultural diversity as a communal value? In that situation how might one express that value?

Unbinding Episcopal Worship from Anglican Culture

1. What culture(s) are represented in your community's musical repertoire?
2. What do we gain by becoming truly multi-cultural? What do we give up?